

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A purified [[ICOS]] polypeptide ~~having altered affinity for B7-H2 compared to a wild-type ICOS polypeptide~~, consisting of:

(a) a variant of

(i) a wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence consisting of an extracellular domain of wild-type ICOS, the wild-type ICOS extracellular domain being SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:9, or

(ii) a wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence consisting of a fragment of at least 8 amino acids of the extracellular domain,

the variant:

consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs by one or more amino acid substitutions from, but is at least 75% homologous to, its corresponding wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence; and

having altered affinity for B7-H2 compared to its corresponding wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence, wherein said altered affinity for B7-H2 is at least 6% of the affinity of [[said]] the corresponding wild-type ICOS [[polypeptide]] amino acid sequence; or

(b) the variant of (a) and: (I) a peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS attached to the N-terminus of the variant of (a); (II) a peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS attached to the C-terminus of the variant of (a); or (III) a peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS attached to the N-terminus of the variant of (a) and a peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS attached to the C-terminus of the variant of (a).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The purified [[ICOS]] polypeptide of claim 2, wherein ~~said difference is~~ the variant differs from its corresponding wild-type amino acid sequence at [[amino acid]] a position corresponding to amino acid 76 of SEQ ID NO:12.
4. (Currently amended) The purified [[ICOS]] polypeptide of claim 3, wherein, in the variant, the amino acid at the position corresponding to said amino acid [[position]] 76 of SEQ ID NO:12 [[contains a]] is glutamine.
5. (Currently amended) The purified [[ICOS]] polypeptide of claim 2, wherein ~~said difference is~~ the variant differs from its corresponding wild-type amino acid sequence at [[amino acid]] a position corresponding to amino acid 52 of SEQ ID NO:12.
6. (Currently amended) The purified [[ICOS]] polypeptide of claim 5, wherein, in the variant, the amino acid at the position corresponding to said amino acid [[position]] 52 of SEQ ID NO:12 [[contains a]] is serine.
7. (Currently amended) The purified [[ICOS]] polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said [[polypeptide]] variant is capable of inhibiting T cell activation in a T cell proliferation assay.
8. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes the polypeptide of claim 1.
9. - (11). (Cancelled)
12. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting T cell activation, comprising contacting an antigen-presenting cell with [[a]] the purified [[ICOS]] polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding to B7-H2 with increased affinity relative to [[a]] its corresponding wild-type ICOS [polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said ~~purified ICOS polypeptide~~ variant comprises a Ser76Glu mutation.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said ~~purified ICOS polypeptide~~ variant comprises a Lys52Ser mutation.
15. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting T cell activation in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an amount of the purified [[ICOS]] polypeptide of claim 1 that is capable of inhibiting a T cell response in said subject.
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said [[ICOS polypeptide]] variant comprises a Ser76Glu mutation.
17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said [[ICOS polypeptide]] variant comprises a Lys52Ser mutation.
18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said subject has an autoimmune disease.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said subject has rheumatoid arthritis.
20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said subject has systemic lupus erythematosus.
21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said subject has diabetes mellitus.
22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said subject is a transplant recipient.
23. (Withdrawn) A method for making an ICOS polypeptide, comprising culturing the cell of claim 11 and isolating said ICOS polypeptide from said culture.
24. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide sequence unrelated to the ICOS or the second peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS is a blocking agent that facilitates survival of the polypeptide *in vivo*.

25. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide sequence unrelated to the ICOS or the second peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS is a tag amino acid sequence.

26. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide sequence unrelated to the ICOS or the second peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS is an immunoglobulin Fc fragment sequence.

27. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said altered affinity is increased affinity.